the State Governments before the commencement of the season. There is no formal assessment of demand of other fertilisers which are decontrolled. In their case, States only project their requirement for the season.

For Kharif '98 the State-wise assessed demand of urea is given in the Statement (*see* below). No difficulty is envisaged in meeting the demand. In the case of decontrolled fertilisers, the demand-supply is regulated by operation of market forces within the parameters of Concession Scheme of DAC.

(c) and (d) Due to restriction of rail movement and shutdown of M/s Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Ltd. (HFC) urea plant at Namrup. In June'98, shortages had temporarily developed in the States of Manipur and Tripura. However, urea supply was rushed to these States from HFC/Barauni and IFFCO/Phulpur after obtaining special dispensation from Ministry of Railways.

Statement

Assessed Demand of Urea for Kharif '98 Season

('000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Assessed demand
1.	Andhra Pradesh	960.00
2.	Karnataka	590.00
3.	Kerala	72.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	375.00
5.	Gujarat	600.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	700.00
7.	Maharashtra	1125.00
8.	Rajasthan	485.00
9.	Goa	4.50
10.	Haryana	600.00
11.	Punjab	1000.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2225.00
13.	Himachal Pradesh	30.00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	75.00
15.	Delhi	13.50
16.	Bihar	700.00
17.	Orissa	325.00
18.	West Bengal	460.00
19.	Assam	50.00
20.	Tripura	12.00
21.	Manipur	23.00
22.	Meghalaya	3.00
23.	Nagaland	0.50
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.35
25.	Mizoram	0.40
26.	Sikkim	0.50
27.	Others	49.94
	Total:	10479.69

Threat of extinction of River-Dolphins

3383. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that unlike their marine counterparts river-dolphins are a rare lot and face extinction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their population in river Ganga, Brahmaputra and Karnaphuli has dwindled from about 5,000 to only 800 over the period of past ten years; and

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn out to protect, preserve and promote this rare and threatened species if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The River Dolphins are rare and considered critical as per recent IUCN criteria. However, there is no immediate threat of its extinction.

(b) No, Sir. As reported by the Zoological Survey of India, the dolphins are mostly seen in the Chambal, Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers of India. Their estimated population was 3500 in 1992 and at present it is estimated to be 1000-1200.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect river dolphins include:—

(i) This species has been included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and its hunting has been banned by law.

(ii) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal capture of dolphin reaches them.

(iii) The concerned range States of India have ben advised to follow the following norms:

(a) The fisheries department should regulate the mesh size of fishing nets to avoid accidental deaths of River Dolphin.

(b) The mosquite net should completely be prohibited for fishing in any part of the river.

(c) The fishermen should be instructed to avoid use of Dolphin oil to attract the fish for netting.

(d) Awareness compaign should be stepped up.

(e) Regular financial assistance is being provided to different institutions and universities for the study of its status, biology and other conservation aspects.

(f) National River Conservation Plan has also been launched for the habitat improvement.

Effluents Discharged by Sugar Mill in Cuddalore

3384. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sugar mill in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is discharging its, effluents into stream which joins Vellar river used by human beings and cattles for drinking and irrigation purposes;

(b) whether Government have directed the sugar mill to stop the discharge of effluents into the river through a narrow stream; and

(c) what action Government will take to make the sugar mill abide by the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the State Government, no sugar unit in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is discharging effluent into any stream which joins Vellar river.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sugar Mills are being monitored by the Government through the Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Board and necessary action is taken against the defaulting units.

Pollution Caused by MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore

3385. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey to assests the damage being done to the atomosphere through ash and other pollutants of the MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu in the nearby villages;

(b) whether the sugar mill authorities or the State Pollution Control Board ever made any survey to assess as to how many people of the neighbouring villages are affected by the fly ash etc. of the mill every year; and

(c) whether Government have directed the MRK Sugar Mill to install pollution control devices as per norms to save the environment and the people of nearby villages?